BENGALURU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 20 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 25 | Min 21 | Humidity 78% Light rain Sensex 81,224 | Nifty 24,854 | Gold 77,750 | Silver 93,804 | Dollar 84.06 | Euro 91.27 | GBP 109.60

Construction work and heavy vehicle traffic have contributed to raising decibel levels in residential areas of city to intolerable heights

IT MIGHT GET LOUD

Noise at Domlur and BTM Layout, areas monitored by KSPCB, breaches permissible level

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Blame it on the city's burgeoning traffic congestion or booming construction activities, noise pollution in residential areas of Bengaluru is spiraling.

According to Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) noise monitoring stations, decibel values in homey neighbourhood of the city are surpassing acceptable noise levels.

While the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has set permissible sound limits of 55dB for the day and 45 dB during the night in residential areas, the decibel values in residential areas in the city were found to be as high as 98dB at night and 92dB during the day.

KSPCB monitors noise levels in two residential areas in the city – Domlur and BTM Layout. A quick scan of the recent noise levels in these areas shows that not only the monthly average decibel values are breaching the permissible limits, but are becoming louder too.

In September, the monthly average noise level recorded by noise monitoring stations in BTM Layout during day time was 71.3 dB and

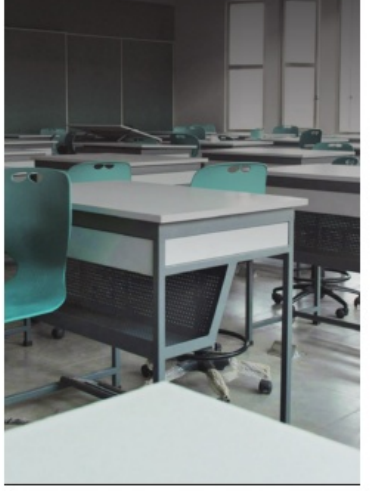
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

"Endless trucks, water tankers, and other heavy vehicles with shrill and multi-tonal horns pass by our apartment complex constantly. We have also raised the issue with authorities concerned — Whitefield resident

EMPTY SEATS

33 private engineering colleges in state fail to enrol single student; 75 admit less than 25% of their capacity

PAGE 6



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MLA
PRADEEP ESHWAR
Scholarship 2024

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- A grant of **Rs 250 crore has been brought to the Chikkaballapur constituency.**
- **Responded to more than 4,000 public complaints** through our website **www.pradeepeshwarmla.com.**
- **"NAMMA OORIGE NAMMA SHASAKARU" program** - I have **visited 2 panchayats** with government officials to solve the issues of our constituency. I am going to visit the next panchayat on the 23rd of this month.
- **Last year, scholarships were given** to **government and private school/ college students.**

Individual Achievements

- Author of 14 books.
- More than 6,000 students have studied in Parishrama Academy and secured MBBS seats.
- As a motivational speaker, I have motivated 30 to 35 lakh people.
- Political achievements without any political background

Now is the time to give Scholarship to Students, may your blessings always continue.

Yours,

Pradeep Eshwar

MLA, Chikkaballapur Assembly Constituency &
Founder, Parishrama NEET Academy

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NOTE

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Last Date for Registration is

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Apply within 30 Days from

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Important Announcement:

Only students belonging to gram panchayats mentioned below are eligible for the scholarship.

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3. Avalagurki
4. Nandi
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6. Aruru
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8. Doddamarali
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10. Hosahudya
11. Harobande
12. S. Gollahalli
13. Kuppahalli
14. Tippenahalli
15. Kammaguttahalli
16. Manchanabele
17. Muddenahalli
18. Jarabandahalli
19. Minakanagurki
20. Shampura
21. Gowdagere
22. Halehalli
23. Pura
24. Machenahalli
25. Mandikallu
26. Peresandra
27. Patrenahalli
28. Poshettihalli
29. Addagallu
30. Kondenahalli

Website: www.pradeepeshwarmla.com

Hawala scam busted in city, 3 held

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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The CEN Police of South Division uncovered a hawala racket with links to foreign operatives, resulting in the arrest of three individuals. Officials uncovered that the accused were using ATM withdrawals, bank cheques, and even petrol stations to funnel money.

The investigation began when a resident of HSR Layout filed a complaint at the CEN Police Station on July 13, 2024, stating that he was deceived by unknown individuals through WhatsApp, promising him double returns if he invested in a fake IPO of a company named Ganesh Green Bharat Limited. The victim transferred Rs 35.35 lakh to various bank accounts between June 27 and July 9, 2024.

While investigating the case, the police apprehended two individuals on August 17 near Charminar in Hyderabad. During interrogation, it was revealed that the duo had ties to a Dubai-based individual, believed to be orchestrating the scam. The accused opened bank accounts across the country to launder money through hawala channels. By October 5, the police had arrested three more individuals. However, officials have confirmed that only three of the total arrested individuals were involved in the scam.

Man arrested for sending bomb threats to colleges in city

Bengaluru police arrested a 48-year-old man who was responsible for sending threatening emails, claiming to have planted bombs in prominent Bengaluru colleges. The accused, identified as Deepanjan Mishra, is a BCom graduate and unemployed. He was apprehended in Salisbury Town, Darjeeling District, West Bengal.

On October 4, two college principals—from Bangalore Institute of Technology (BIT) and BMS College—received threatening emails from an unknown email address. The emails warned that advanced hydrogen-based IEDs had been planted on their respective campuses, causing immediate alarm. A formal complaint was filed by both, and cases were registered at VV Puram Police Station and Hanumantha Nagar Police Station.

Upon investigating, authorities tracked the origin of the emails, leading them to the suspect in West Bengal. Upon arrest and further investigation, the police found his connection to 10 other similar bomb threat cases, which were reported in West Bengal and Bengaluru. Police have seized a HP laptop and a Nokia mobile phone used to execute the crime. Further investigations are ongoing to find links to additional bomb threat cases registered at various police stations in Bengaluru.

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If style is your basic need

Ever since the pandemic and the work-from-home dressing sense that it resulted in, we have become more comfort-oriented in our fashion choices. For most of us who have accepted the normcore way of life but still want to look stylish for this new world, presenting five wardrobe staples that you can start with again. These are styles that are interchangeable and can be worn with each other endlessly.

A Pair Of Basic Denim Pants

No wardrobe is complete without a pair of basic denim pants. Skinny denim which was all the rage in the last decade has been replaced with the '80s-inspired mom jeans. You can either dress it up by pairing it with expensive silk or satin shirts or wear them with your plain shirts and printed graphic tees. For a chic pairing, wear your denim with stilettos.

A Plain White Poplin Shirt

Poplin shirts are crisper than regular shirts.

For a pared down look, roll up the sleeves and wear them with your denim pants. Want to go more casual? Loosen a couple of top buttons and dip your toes in the Gen-Z-inspired trend of moderately exposed bras. Have a work-related Zoom call? Throw on a blazer with a white shirt underneath. Since no one wears formal pants anymore, skip those and reach for the denim instead.

An Oversized Blazer

Balenciaga has revived the '90s oversized blazers and rejigged them with elements inspired by street style – an indication that blazers have now trickled down into our everyday wardrobes. A blazer with rolled up sleeves can be worn with a graphic printed tee, a pair of anti-fit denim and a pair of sunglasses for a walk down to the nearest coffee shop. Think Kendall Jenner.

A Graphic Printed Tee

So, we're basically living in a throwback where most fashion trends are inspired by the former decades. Another fashion trend that has its roots in the '80s is a graphic printed T-shirt. A relaxed fit printed tee tucked into the denim with a blazer on top, or simply a tee and denim with some high-tops, flatform sandals or chic trainers is a great casual look for an everyday style. An oversized tote bag is a must-have with this look.

A Plain Dress, Black Or Otherwise

Sure, little black dress is good, but a ribbed midi dress is even better and in 2021, a surprising outfit pick, too. A ribbed column dress or its slight body-hugging version can be worn as is, with a blazer on top or, if you are unafraid to experiment, with a graphic tee on top to moonlight as a skirt. Chunky gold earrings or chain link necklaces would look great, especially with racerback or halter dresses.

—Femina

Tips to wear high heels without pain

Heels are fantastic. They make you feel all glamorous and beautiful instantly, but there is no point of all this - if what follows is excruciating pain. More than two-and-a-half decades of 'heel wearing experience' have taught me a few things to keep in mind.

Moisturise Your Feet Well

There will be less friction as you move and you will not get blisters and burns.

Get Your Foot Size Right

Getting the foot size right is really important. Before buying a pair, ask the person helping you in the store to tell you the right foot size. Also, foot size changes, and not just while you are growing up, but also when you are all grown up. Check it at least twice a year.

Pay Attention To The Shape Of Your Feet

Some of us have narrow feet, some have wide; some have smaller toes, while some might have long fingers.. There are so many variations. If you have wide feet, I would advise not to wear closed tapered shoes. Wear wide front closed ones or open toe ones. Even those with smaller toes should opt for closed wide front shoes. The pointed front shoes will pinch your toes and make it very uncomfortable. Unfortunately, besides taking them off after an hour or so, there will be no other solution.

Block Heels Or Platforms

Block heels and platforms are way more comfortable than pointed heels. I know nothing can match up to pencil heels, but with the whole creativity boom happening in the design industry, you will find styles and shapes that would catch your fancy. They are as trendy as any!

Extra Cushions For Thin Soles

Shoes that have a thin sole, will cause pain at the bottom of your feet. Get a foot/cushion as that acts like a shock absorber. Rest your feet

Take a little rest every now and then while wearing heels. Stretch your feet a little. Your feet will get the break it needs..

Shoes With More Support

Wearing heels with more top coverage or an ankle strap or both will be a lot more comfortable. It provides additional support to the feet.

Precautions

Always do foot stretches after you take off the shoes (ask your doctor or simply search the web).

Ice pack on the ankles and back of the foot will take away the soreness.

Foot massage once in a while is a very good idea.

(The article is authored by Divya Singh Vishwanath, lifestyle blogger and stylist, for Femina)

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Enrollment drop: COMED-K seats lie vacant across state

33 engineering colleges record 0 admissions through COMED-K seats; 16 secure enrollments between 50-80%, 6 have more than 80% seats filled

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com

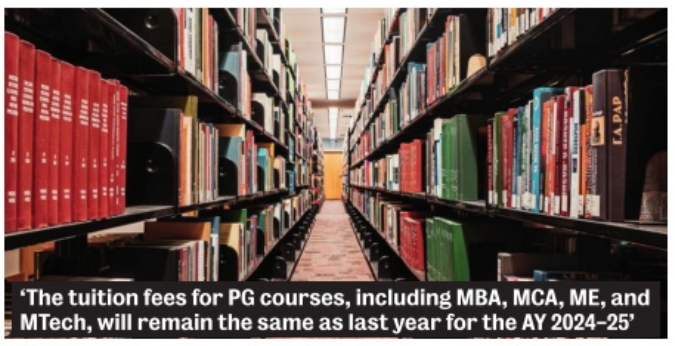
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

A section of private engineering colleges in Karnataka have been unsuccessful in attracting students through the Consortium of Medical, Engineering, and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMED-K) entrance exam this year, leading several colleges and witnessing zero admissions.

In the academic year 2023-24, 20 colleges had reached an 80% admission rate, but this number has significantly dropped this year. Compared to last year, the number of colleges with no admissions has increased. This year, 33 colleges have not enrolled a single student, whereas the number was 29 last year. Additionally, 75 colleges have admitted less than 25% of their total capacity. Only 16 colleges have managed to secure admissions between 50% and 80%, while a mere six colleges have achieved more than 80% enrollment.

Factors behind this decline

COMED-K has blamed this trend on the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) admission process. Many students who initially secure seats through COMED-K later drop out after receiving seats through KCET. Furthermore, out-of-state students often prefer enrolling in colleges closer to their home states, leading to a decline in the number of students opting for COMED-K seats year after year. Despite the inclusion of private colleges under the COMED-K banner, many of these institutions lack adequate infrastructure, and some are located in rural areas. Moreover, several colleges have not secured good placement opportunities, which further deters students from enrolling. Education experts have pointed to these factors as the reasons behind the dwindling student admissions in these colleges.



'The tuition fees for PG courses, including MBA, MCA, ME, and MTech, will remain the same as last year for the AY 2024-25'

No change in tuition fees for PG courses

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Higher Education Department has announced that the tuition fees for postgraduate courses, including MBA, MCA, ME, and MTech, will remain the same as last year for the AY 2024-25. Typically, the department increases fees for professional courses annually, but this year, it has decided not to implement any hike and has issued an order to continue with the previous year's fee structure.

For government and government-aided institutions offering funded courses like MBA, MCA, ME, and MTech, the state government has set an annual tuition fee of Rs 20,000. In contrast, for private unaided institutions, the tuition fee for these courses remains at Rs 57,750 per year, with the fee for ME and MTech courses at Rs 69,300. The same tuition fees that were fixed for PG courses in the AY 2023-24 will apply to seat allocation, admission processes, and tuition fees for the AY 2024-25.

Additionally, unaided institutions are required to fill 50% of the total seats based on PG-CET eligibility, with the remaining 50% of the seats to be filled based on the admission test conducted by the respective institutions' management. For MCA courses, 50% of the seats will be filled through PG-CET, and the remaining 50% will be filled based on the institution's admission test, as per the government's guidelines.

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Story time

Indic mythology is full of answers to the many whys of our culture. Join in for a storytelling session on "Mythology Marvels-Simply Shakti; Tales of the fiercely feminine from Indic Mythology." Come join Lavanya Prasad and Meenu Sivaramakrishnan as they explore and bring forth the marvellous stories from the Indic mythology through music, dance, and theatre.
Where: Atta Galatta; When: October 19, 2:30 pm

02 Step into history

Watch 'Kaumudi' (Moonlight) as part of Ranga Shankara's Theatre Fest; Kamudi is about a rite of passage. Using the moonlit, timeless night on which Krishna delivered knowledge to Arjuna as its central trope, the play explores the dynamics between an estranged father-son duo who play Ekalavya's ghost and Abhimanyu, respectively, in a theatre in late 1960's Allahabad. The play is inspired by two texts—Anand's Malayalam novel 'Vyasam Vigneswaram' and Jorge Luis Borges' 'Blindness'. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar When: October 19, 7:30 pm**

03 Share it all

Share your rage, your pain, your fear, your shame—and also your sorrow, your joys, your hope, and yourself in a sharing circle. Join Raju and Nidhra as they hold space for experiences with mental illness, medical and therapeutic support, as well as medical/therapeutic violence in 'Break open the sky—a sharing circle on mental health support for marginalised communities.' **Where: Urban Solace; When: October 19, 2 pm**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY PURCHASE

To Whomsoever It May Concern:

Notice is hereby given that Bhavya Harish (hereinafter referred to as "the Purchaser") intends to purchase the following property: Property Details:- Site No.: 42 - Katha No.: Gramatana PID No. 150300400400500072 – Property No.: 317/42 - Location: Arehalli Grama Kalkunte Agraha Gramapanchayath, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District - Measurement: East to West 27.43 meters (90 ft), North to South 26.82 meters (88 ft), Total Area 729.60 sq. meters Previous Ownership: The said property is currently owned by Ramana Reddy, aged 39 years, son of T Krishna Reddy, residing at Flat No. 006, B.M. Magnolia Park Apartments, Immedihalli Main Road, Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore -560066. The said property is currently owned by Ramana Reddy who has lost the original documents, including the Sale Deed, tax paid receipts, and family Tree documents. Same having purchased by he under a DEED of Sale date: 18.03.2024, Book 1, 19764. 202324, in the office of the Sub registrar, Hoskote purchased from T. Sampangiramaiah, son of late Tippaiah and others. Pertaining to the above said Property, the Said Previous all documents (Original), while travailing from White field Main Road to White field, Bangalore, on 17.09.2024 at about Morning 10.30 am. Police Complainant Lost Report No. 1248760/2024, dated: 19.09.2024.

Objection Invitation: If any person or entity has any claim, objection, or interest in the said property, they are hereby invited to contact the Purchaser within 7 days from the date of this notice.

Sd/- MURALI.C.A LL.B., Advocate
Contact Details: Bhavya Harish
Mob: 7349616143

Repair & reuse: Don't junk it, learn to mend it

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Aiming to promote sustainable living practices by encouraging the citizens to engage in repair and reuse of everyday items, members of Saahas are organising a full-day event, 'Repair Maadi Bengaluru,' on Saturday, on the occasion of International Repair Day. This event is aligned with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's (MoEFCC) 'Mission LiFE' and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs' 'Right to Repair' initiative.

"By encouraging repairs, this initiative focuses on reducing waste and fostering a shift towards more conscious consumption habits. We will include a variety of activities, including DIY workshops, panel discussions, repair vendors, and fun learning opportunities for children. Citizens can engage in practical workshops that promote hands-on learning," said Swetha Raghavendra of the Change Matters Project of Saahas.

Happening today from 10 am to 5 pm at Shankara Foundation, Kanakapura Road, Doddakallasandra

Furthermore, she said the event will also have a fashion mending workshop that will teach children basic sewing skills; a carpentry workshop where participants can learn to make wall shelves, lampshades, etc using waste materials; and an electrical training session, guiding participants on how to handle basic repairs for gadgets like toasters, including screw usage, circuit management, and identifying spare parts. These sessions will provide the necessary tools and charge a small fee for the materials.

Additionally, a bicycle mechanic will also demonstrate how to service and maintain bicycles. The event will feature two panel discussions: 'Right to Repair in Electrical and Electronic Goods' and 'Repair, Restoration, and Reuse in the Fashion Industry.' Moreover, there will be a 'Repair Arena,' where professional repair vendors will be available to fix household items like clothes, shoes, and bag zippers, or sharpen knives for a charge.

"For children, the event will offer games and activities designed to teach them about sustainable living, such as segregation, relay races, treasure hunts, and block printing on cloth bags. Sustainable product stalls will showcase eco-friendly alternatives, including bamboo toothbrushes, natural shampoo bars, and composters. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own bottles, as the event is being held as a zero-waste initiative, with reusable cutlery provided by food vendors," added Raghavendra.

JOS ALUKKAS

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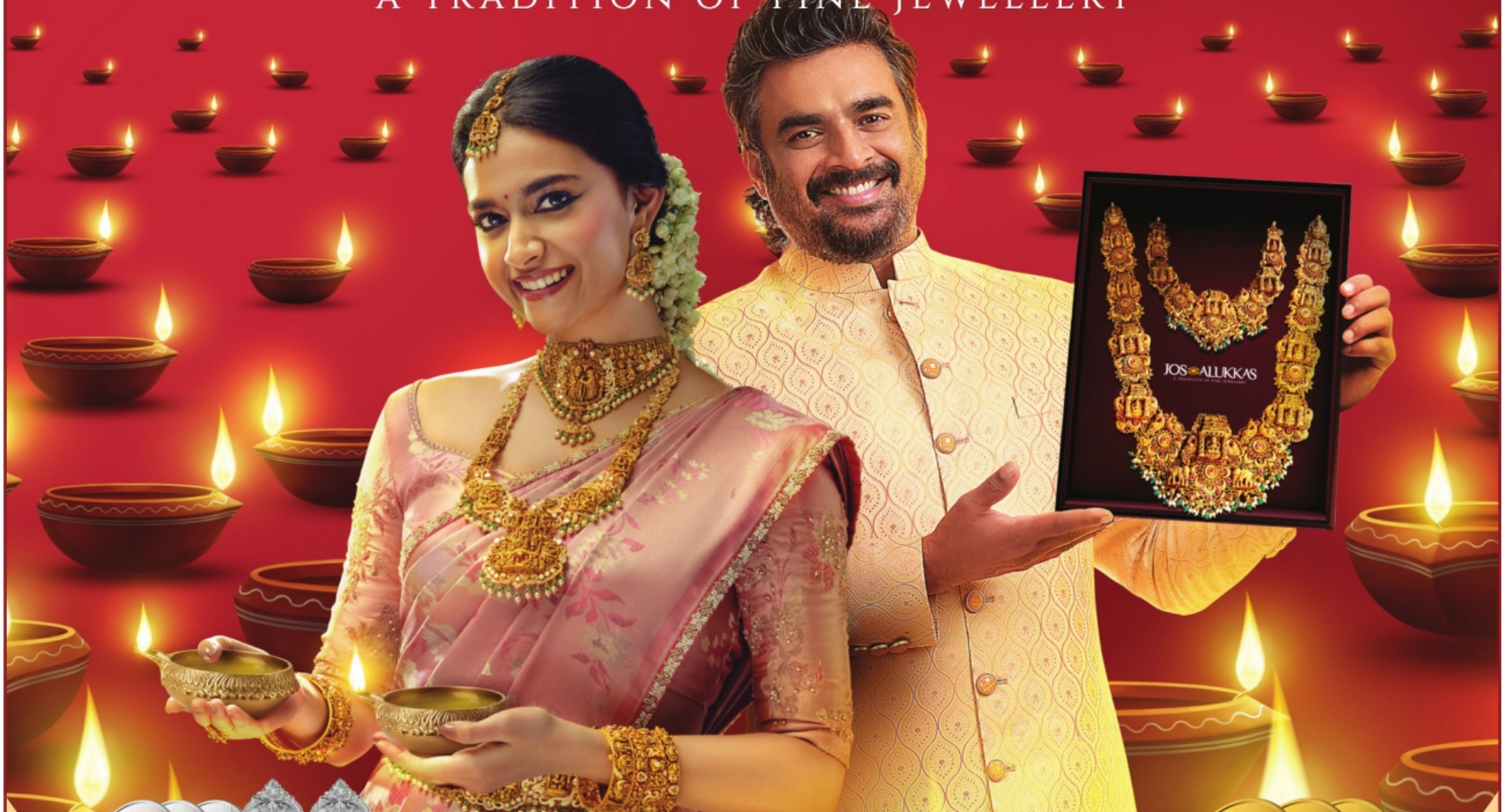

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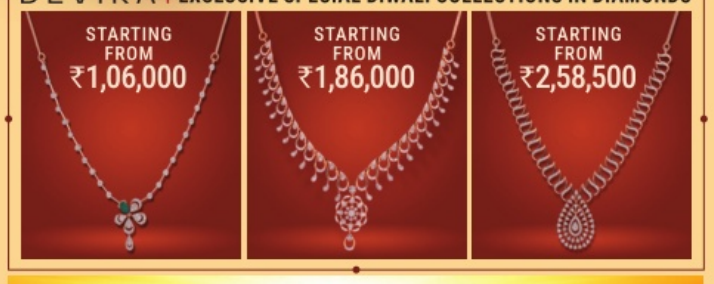

WIN CAR THROUGH LUCKY DRAW

Jos Alukkas opens 9th showroom in Bengaluru at Marathahalli on Saturday, 26th October 2024.

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Darshan's family visits him in jail

Actor Darshan's wife, Vijayalakshmi, along with family members, visited him at Bellary Jail on Friday morning.

Darshan, who is currently imprisoned in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case, had a discussion with his wife and family during the visit.

A civil court in Bengaluru rejected the bail pleas of Darshan and Pavithra Gowda on Monday, October 14. Both are accused in the murder of Renukaswamy, whose body was found in Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru, on June 9. However, another accused in the case, Deepak, was granted bail by the City Civil Court.

The Sessions Court in Bengaluru on October 8 reserved the verdict on actor Darshan's bail petition in connection with a murder case. The proceedings started on the bail applications of actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, Pavithra Gowda, and 11 other individuals implicated in the Renukaswamy murder case. The court session, presided over by Judge Jaishankar, saw attorneys representing the other accused presenting their arguments, although Darshan's team did not make submissions at this session. Special government prosecutor P Prasannakumar also provided his arguments, after which the court opted to reserve its ruling until October 9, 2024. —ANI

₹300 bribe: HC upholds order dismissing typist

Commercial Taxes Dept employee had admitted to receiving money

The Karnataka High Court has upheld the state government's decision to dismiss a female typist from the Commercial Taxes Department who was caught accepting a bribe of Rs 300. The court, in a ruling by a division bench consisting of Justices SG Pandit and CM Poonacha, stated that it would not have the authority to change the punishment unless it found that the penalty imposed was disproportionate to the severity of the offence and shocked the court's conscience.

Court says it cannot change punishment unless it found penalty imposed to be disproportionate to offence severity

The government had challenged an order issued by the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal (KSAT) on January 4, 2018, which had substituted the punishment of dismissal with compulsory retirement for the typist, HS Kanthi. Kanthi and Sampath Rao S Bommannavar, a Commercial Tax Officer, were accused of corruption, with Rao allegedly receiving Rs 2,000 and Kanthi Rs 300 from the complainant, Ganesh Shetty.

After an investigation, Kanthi was dismissed from service on July 24, 2014, with the government finding that she had failed to maintain absolute integrity and devotion to duty and had engaged in misconduct under Rule 3(1)(i) to (iii) read with Rule 16 of the Karnataka Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1966. The KSAT, however, had substituted the punishment with compulsory retirement, taking into account that Kanthi was a woman who had served for 11 years and 5 months and that a more lenient approach should be taken.

The division bench noted that the enquiry officer had clearly recorded in his report that Kanthi had admitted, both in her defence statement and initial explanation immediately after the trap, that she had received money from the complainant and had pleaded excuse by admitting guilt. The bench also observed that in criminal proceedings, the petitioner was acquitted of the charges only on the grounds that demand and acceptance were not proven, but the criminal court found that she had received Rs 300 and kept it in her vanity bag. "The tribunal, having observed that demanding and receiving bribes is a serious social morality and it needs to be dealt with firmly, could not have substituted the punishment of dismissal with that of compulsory retirement. Further, as held by the Hon'ble Apex Court, the tribunal, without recording as to whether the punishment of dismissal for a proven charge of accepting bribe is disproportionate or whether it shocks the conscience of the court, could not have substituted the punishment," the bench said. — BMB

Traffic restrictions

In view of the Doddagunta Dasara Pallakki Utsava organised by the Sri Lakshmi Narayana Swamy Temple Committee on Friday, the Pulakeshinagar Traffic Police have implemented traffic restrictions to ensure smooth movement of vehicles. The event will take place from 9 am on Friday till 11 pm on Saturday.

Traffic will be restricted in both directions from Pottery Road MM Road Junction to Doddagunta Circle and Assaye Road Junction. Traffic between Assaye Road Sundarmurthy Road Junction through Tambuchetty Road to MM Road - Pottery Road Junction, and from Ramakrishnappa Road PSK Naidu Road Junction to Assaye Road Junction via Ramakrishnappa Road and Sundarmurthy Road, will also be affected. As alternatives, vehicles heading to Doddagunta Circle via MM Road will be diverted to Buddha Vihara Road via Lazar Road, then towards Assaye Road through Sindhi Colony Junction. Those traveling on Tambuchetty Road via Assaye Road will be rerouted to Sindhi Colony Junction via Buddha Vihara Road and Kenchappa Road. Vehicles approaching Assaye Road Junction from Ramakrishnappa Road will be diverted along PSK Naidu Road, with access through Assaye Road. These diversions are intended to ensure smooth traffic flow during the festival.

Parking will be restricted on MM Road, Doddagunta Circle, Sundarmurthy Road, Webster Road, Ramakrishnappa Road, Charles Campbell Road, PSK Naidu Road, and Tambuchetty Road from October 19-20. The public is requested to follow these guidelines and cooperate with the traffic authorities for a hassle-free event.

Restrictions for Metro pipeline work

In view of the Bangalore Metro Project Phase-II pipeline replacement, traffic restrictions will be in place from October 18 to 20, between Outer Ring Road 27th Main Road Flyover Down Ramp and Ibbalur Government School. The 1,000-mm diameter STP pipeline replacement work will affect the main road within the Bellandur Traffic Police Station limits, leading to temporary traffic disruptions.

To ensure smoother traffic flow, an alternative route has been arranged. Vehicles traveling along Outer Ring Road - 27th Main Road can use the service road from the flyover down ramp to Ibbalur Government School during this period. Motorists are advised to follow these traffic arrangements to avoid congestion and delays. — BMB

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I, JOSHI SANGEETA JAGANNATH, Residing at No. 599, 9th Cross, 6th Main, BTM 2nd Stage, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560076, have changed my name to VISHAKHA VIPIN SAPRE, vide affidavit dated 09/10 /2024, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I Shweta Sanyal W/o Bratindra Sanyal R/o Paradise Nest, Villa No - C3, Thubrahalli, Varthur Main Road, Bangalore - 560066 have changed my name to Shweta Jain for all purposes.

I Vijayalakshmi D/O, Ramesh R/o 372/25, 57th C Cross Rajajinagar 3rd Block Bengaluru Karnataka have changed my name to Vijayalakshmi R.

I Jiyaulhuk S/o Rajbuddin Khan R/o No 51 Behind Noorani masjid Beltur colony Kadugodi plantation Bangalore 560067 have changed my name to Zeyaul haque.

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10k cases for faulty autos meters

Over past 17 months, 2,997 cases registered resulted in penalties, amounting to Rs 15.12 lakh

Fines range from Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 for faulty meters

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As cab services and bike taxis from various companies increase in Bengaluru, many auto-rickshaw drivers are neglecting meter maintenance and the mandatory annual meter verification. The Legal Metrology Department has registered 10,721 cases over the past 17 months in this regard, with 2,997 cases resulting in penalties, amounting to Rs 15.12 lakh.

While the law requires auto drivers to charge passengers based on the meter, many do not comply, leading to frequent disputes between passengers and drivers over fares. Though some drivers use the meter upon request, cases of overcharging are still common.

In response to these violations, the Legal Metrology Department has conducted periodic checks on auto meters between April 2023 and August 2024, collecting Rs 15.12 lakh in penalties. In Bengaluru and Ramanagara regions alone, 10,721 cases were registered. Out of these, 2,997 cases resulted in fines, and 5,309 new cases were filed in 2023-24, with 1,423 fines amounting to Rs 7,49,091 collected. For the year 2024, up to August, 5,412 cases were recorded, and Rs 7,63,091 was collected from 1,574 cases.

According to law, all weight and measurement devices, including auto meters, must undergo periodic verification (stamping) by the Legal Metrology Department. Auto drivers are required to get their meters verified annually by paying a fee of Rs 150. If the verification is delayed beyond the due date, an additional Rs 75 is charged. Failure to verify meters results in a Rs 500 fine. In the past 17 months, the department verified 57,073 auto meters, collecting Rs 1.25 crore in verification fees, with Rs 64.95 lakh collected between April and August 2024.

> **“Violations such as unverified meters, lack of certification, or faulty meters result in penalties ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 2,000**
> –Official

Repeat offenses lead to court cases

An official said, “During inspections, violations such as unverified meters, lack of certification, or faulty meters result in penalties. Fines range from Rs 500 for unverified meters to Rs 2,000 for faulty meters. If drivers repeatedly violate the rules, legal action is taken, and cases are filed in court, according to department officials.”

Decreased demand for auto services

Auto drivers have reported a drop in demand over the past few years, citing the expansion of the metro, and the increased usage of services like Ola, Uber, and bike taxis. Additionally, the state government’s “Shakti” scheme has also reduced the demand for auto services. As a result, many drivers are earning less, leading some to offer rides without using the meter or by tampering with the meter to charge higher fares, according to department sources.

House break-in leaves man broke

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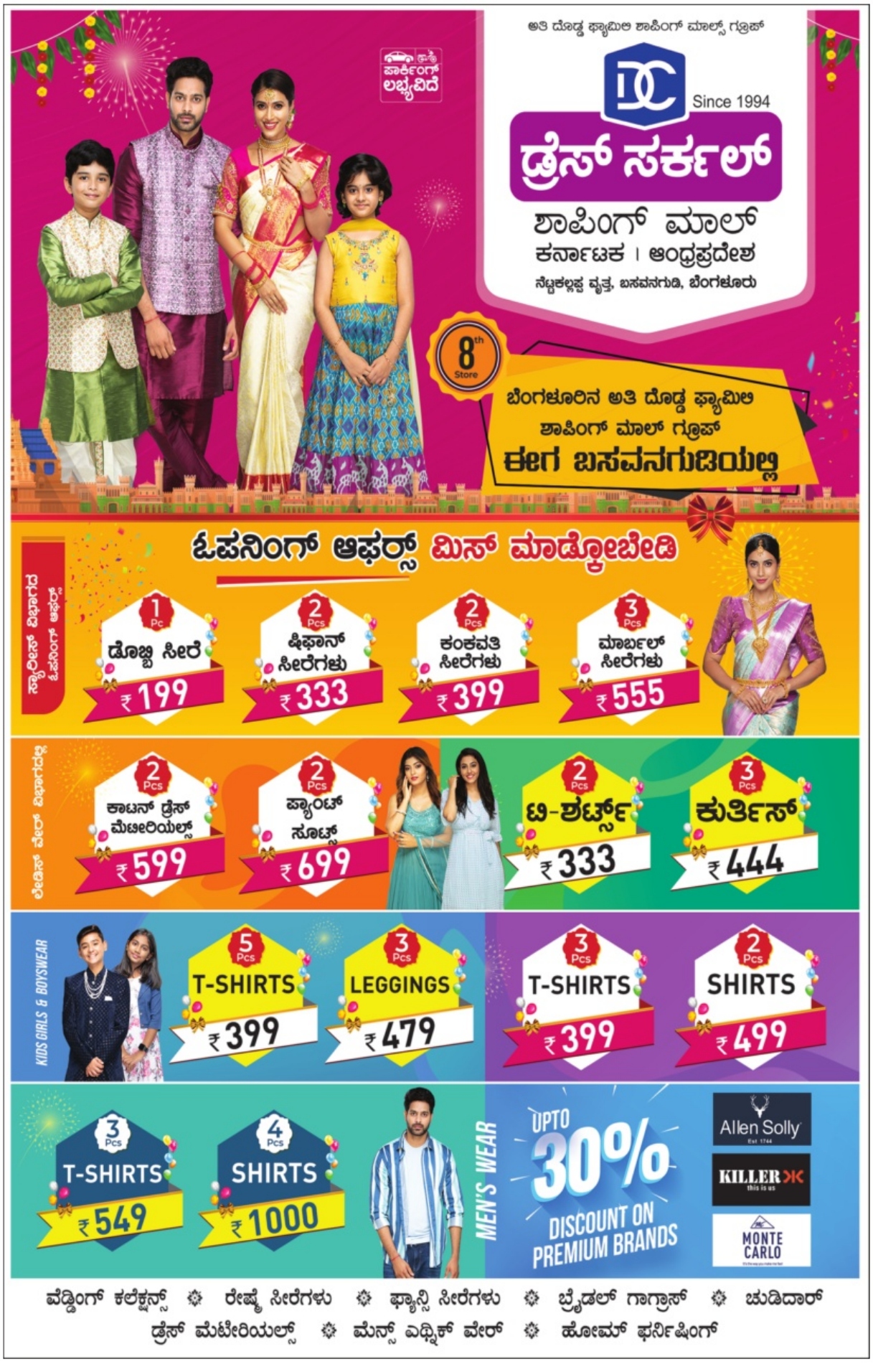
Harsha S, a resident of Varanasi Main Road near Ramamurthy Nagar, left for Chamarajanakottige in Kodagu district at 10.30 am on October 9 and returned home at 5 pm on October 15, only to find the house had been broken into.

Harsha was shocked to find the door lock broken, gold and silver jewellery worth Rs 40 lakh and cash of Rs 30,000 missing from the almirah. “The rear door of the house was also broken. “The jewellery belongs to my late mother. I kept new currency notes (Rs 30,000) for Lakshmi Puja. I have complained to KR Puram Police who are investigating the case,” said Harsha.

He said that he leased the house and was looking for a job. Before this, he was residing in Halasuru. “I never expected the thieves to break the door and enter the house as it is on the main road. It is a busy area and it is difficult for thieves to break the door without others noticing it. I enquired my neighbours whether they noticed anyone breaking the door. They said that they did not notice it. They said they were indoors due to the rain and could not hear any sound of door breaking due to the rain,” he said.

He said that he is in a dilemma as he has no cash or job to make ends meet. “The Sub-Inspector from KR Puram Police Station visited my house for verification on Thursday evening. I appeal to the police to use the CCTV footage to nab the thieves and recover the jewellery and cash stolen from my house,” he said.

It is suspected that the theft took place between October 9 and 15. The police have registered a first information report (FIR) under Sections 305, 331(3), 331(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.



Dasara done, bus fare to Mysuru is still high

Prolonged hike hits regular passengers, those relying on buses for work or family visits

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The much-awaited Dasara festival came to a close last week, yet passengers travelling continue to experience inflated bus fares. Traditionally, bus fares see a surge during peak festive seasons to accommodate the rush of passengers, but commuters were taken aback when the heightened prices remained in place long after the festival had ended.

Several travellers have expressed their frustration, especially men, as women are currently benefiting from a free bus travel scheme introduced by the Karnataka government. For male passengers, the usual fare of Rs 182 has now increased to Rs 200. Though the difference may seem marginal, regular commuters and those relying on public transport for work or family visits find the prolonged fare hike surprising and burdensome.

"I was expecting the fares to go back to normal after the Dasara festival ended," said a frequent traveller between Bengaluru and Mysuru, adding "But the prices are still high, and it's frustrating. This should have been a temporary adjustment, not something that lingers for over a week."

According to the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), the decision to keep fares higher was due to continued high demand on the route. Many people still travel for post-festival reasons, including those visiting family or returning from extended holidays. KSRTC officials have also indicated that these increased fares will likely persist for another two days, after which they expect the demand to normalise and the prices to revert to their usual rates.

For male passengers, the usual fare of Rs 182 has now increased to Rs 200

"With a government holiday on Thursday and many people taking extended leave for 4-5 days, we are extending the fare increase until Monday
–KSRTC official

However, some passengers argue that the pricing strategy should be more flexible. "There's always high demand during the festive season, but the rush usually dies down in a few days. It doesn't make sense to keep charging us more, especially when the festival is over," said another commuter travelling from Bengaluru to Mysuru.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation officials explained that bus fares during the festive season will be increased by up to 20%, with the upcoming holidays leading to a surge in commuters. During festivals, there is a significant rise in travel demand, and costs such as returning empty buses add to the expense. Rising oil prices and adjustments to employee salaries and benefits also contribute to the fare hike.

"Unlike private buses that can navigate between locations, public buses are assigned specific routes and must return on the same route. This time, with Dasara ending on Sunday, we expected all buses to return by Tuesday, which would have allowed the fare hike to end. However, with a government holiday on Thursday and many people taking extended leave for 4-5 days, we are extending the fare increase until Monday," said the KSRTC officials.

5 chosen spots for 2nd airport

With Bengaluru rapidly growing into a global metropolis, a second international airport is becoming a necessity for its residents and businesses. The government has identified five potential locations for this project, though no final decision has been made yet. Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil has stated that a final decision will be taken after a meeting next week. He shared this update after an important meeting held at his office on Friday. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Patil clarified, "There is no truth to reports that the location for the second international airport has already been finalised. We have shortlisted five locations, including Dabaspet, Nelamangala, Bidadi, and Harohalli. Another location was also discussed today. The final decision will be made in the next meeting, scheduled for next week." Patil stressed that the decision on the airport's location would not be influenced by any political interests. "The convenience of Bengaluru's residents and businesses is our priority, and we will ensure that the second airport significantly contributes to our economic growth," he added.

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has requested 45 acres of land near Hebbal to develop a multi-modal transport hub. However, Minister Patil clarified that this land is not under the control of the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB).

In 2001, it was handed over to a private entity under the "Single Unit Complex" plan. As a result, the metro corporation has been advised to negotiate with the concerned private company.

Fish kill at lake; waste plant at Chikkanagamanala blamed

Hundreds of fish were found dead on Friday morning at Chikkanagamangala Lake, leaving residents shocked and concerned about the state of the lake's ecosystem. The incident was observed as people were out for their morning walk around the lake, which is located near Electronic City.

This is not the first time fish have died at Chikkanagamangala Lake. Last year, thousands of fish were reported dead in a similar incident, which residents say was caused by toxic water entering the lake from a nearby waste management plant.

Residents have long voiced their concerns about the contamination, claiming that leachate – a liquid that drains from the solid waste – from the waste management plant located on Chikkanagamangala-Doddanagamangala Road is seeping into the lake. The plant is operated by Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), and residents allege that its operations are polluting the surrounding water bodies and groundwater.

Pranay Dubey from Electronic City Rising, a local citizens' group, expressed his frustration over the recurring issue. "Cattle, fish, and humans are suffering health issues, yet there seems to be a lack of concern. Last year, thousands of fish were killed, and this has occurred again. Who will be held accountable for this ongoing damage?" he questioned.

Hundreds of dead fish seen at the Chikkanagamangala lake on Friday

Another resident, Sachin, highlighted the alarming frequency of such incidents. "This is a similar case to last year, where toxic water entered the lake. The main issues are the contamination of groundwater and incidents like these where fish in surface water are killed," Sachin explained.

Residents are calling for urgent action from authorities to address the pollution issue and protect the lake's ecology. Many are demanding that the waste management plant be relocated.

–Iffath Fathima

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FCP.INTERFACE/6878/OCT2024/ENG

Biggest drug bust this year

Narcotics worth over Rs 21 crore seized

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In one of the city's largest drugs busts this year, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) Narcotics Control Unit, in coordination with Customs officials, has uncovered a well-organised international drug smuggling racket in Bengaluru.

Drugs worth ₹21.17 crore were seized during a meticulous raid at the city's Foreign Post Office, where over 3,500 parcels were inspected with the assistance of a trained canine squad. The operation uncovered a staggering 606 parcels containing various narcotics.

Among the substances seized were massive quantities of Hydro Ganja (28.06 kg), LSD (2,569 blotters), MDMA crystals (1.618 kg), Ecstasy tablets (11,908), Heroin (770 gram), Cocaine (102 gram), Amphetamine (6.280 kg), Charas (336 gram), Ganja oil (1.217 kg), along with E-cigarettes and nicotine. Authorities revealed that the drugs, smuggled from countries like the US, UK, Belgium, Thailand, and the Netherlands, were shipped into Bengaluru via the Indian Postal Service and distributed at highly inflated rates.

Bigger ops

This operation is part of an aggressive crackdown on drug trafficking by the CCB, with the Narcotics Unit already registering 12 cases this year. Investigations indicate that the arrested individuals are part of a larger network of drug importers and distributors operating within the city, with September alone witnessing three major arrests related to similar cases in HSR Layout and CCB Station.

The scale of this seizure is unprecedented, and authorities warn that this may only be the tip of the iceberg. As investigations continue, more arrests are anticipated in the coming days.

FIR filed in Lok Sabha ticket cheating case: Home Minister

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Friday said that an FIR has been filed against Gopal Joshi, the brother of Union Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi, in what the police said was a case of cheating linked to the recent Lok Sabha elections.

Answering a question about the FIR against the Union Minister's brother, Parameshwara told the media that whenever any cases come to the police department, they will have to be taken seriously.

"The police have already launched a search for him. Among the accused two to three persons have already been secured," he said.

"Union Minister Joshi's brother Gopal Joshi has not been caught yet. The case will be taken and action as per the law will be initiated," the Home Minister added. On the involvement of Union Minister Prahlad Joshi, Parameshwara stated that it is unclear whether he is directly involved.

"After interrogating the arrested individuals and recording their statements, the details will emerge. Nothing should be said before the investigation is completed and the report is available, at which point his involvement, if any, will be known," he emphasised.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, asked about the development, maintained: "A case of cheating and atrocity case has been registered in Basaveshwaranagar police station following the complaint of a woman who claims that certain individuals have defrauded her in the pretext of getting a ticket for the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections from Vijayapura Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka."

The case is registered and an investigation is under progress, he said, adding that at this stage, "we cannot divulge much details". **IANS**

"We have not been able to live peacefully since construction started..."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

during night-time was 70.3 dB. However, other residential areas in the city are not untouched by this underrated environmental problem.

Residents of Byrasandra in CV Raman Nagar have been raising the issue of high noise levels from a construction site adjacent to their apartment complex. A resident filed a written complaint with KSPCB on October 14.

In the complaint, a copy of which is with BM, the resident has requested the state pollution control board to take necessary action against the builder, as they continue to violate norms.

"We have not been able to live peacefully since construction started more than a year ago. Cement pumps on the site make loud noise, way beyond the permissible limits, during night hours. This is in direct violation of KSPCB's circular dated May 10, 2022, which states the maximum noise levels during night-time in residential areas should not exceed 55 dB.

However, the builder is blatantly violating the rules as the noise levels in our neighborhood at night averages around 87 dB," a resident of Byrasandra said.

Truck trance

Residents from various parts of the city say surge in noise levels is due to tipper trucks and heavy vehicles supplying material to construction sites round the clock.

"The balcony of our apartment faces a construction site and the queue of heavy vehicles carrying raw material to and from the site never ends. These vehicles

are generally fitted with shrill horns, which make the noise unbearable. Even if we close doors and windows, the sharp noise penetrates through, causing discomfort," said a resident from Yelahanka.

The transport department, a few years ago, restricted the use of shrill horns or air horns. The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 also bars alteration in motor vehicles with those originally specified by the manufacturer and prescribes that the violators be punished. It also says that needless honking should be punishable with a fine of Rs 1,000 and for a second or subsequent offense with a fine of Rs 2,000.

"Endless trucks, water tankers, and other heavy vehicles with shrill and multi-tonal horns pass by our apartment complex constantly. We have also raised the issue with authorities concerned. However, there has been no respite," said a resident of Whitefield.

SC dismisses petition challenging bail to Bhavani Revanna

The Supreme Court dismissed a petition by the Karnataka government challenging the anticipatory bail granted to Bhavani Revanna, the mother of former JDS MP Prajwal Revanna. Bhavani is accused of abetting her son in the alleged sexual exploitation of several women.

A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan noted that individuals in politics often find themselves entangled in such cases. The court took into consideration that the respondent is a woman aged around 55-56 years and the allegation pertained to abetment of offences by her son.

The bench also acknowledged that the principal accused has been arrested, subjected to custodial interrogation, and a charge sheet has been filed in the case.

Consequently, the court found no grounds to interfere with the anticipatory bail granted to Bhavani Revanna.

The Karnataka government had challenged the High Court's order from June this year, which allowed regular anticipatory bail to Bhavani Revanna in the abduction case registered at the KR Nagar police station in Mysuru.

While issuing notice on July 10, the court had observed that there was insufficient material against Bhavani in the victim's statement recorded before a court under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Bhavani had approached the High Court after the special court denied her relief. Prior to this, she had appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to answer questions related to their probe into the matter. **BMB**

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Ride through rains: Expert tips for bikers

As Bengaluru's rainy season sets in, bikers face challenges with heavy rains, waterlogged roads, and slippery surfaces. To prevent breakdowns and ensure a smooth ride, proper care is essential. Here's a quick guide with expert advice and practical tips for maintaining your bike during the rain.

Regular cleaning and lubrication

Rainwater often brings dirt and debris that can accumulate on the bike's chain, brakes, and undercarriage. Anil Kumar, a senior mechanic explains, "One of the most common mistakes bikers make during the monsoon is neglecting regular cleaning. After every ride in the rain, it's important to clean the bike thoroughly to remove mud and grime that can cause rust and wear." Kumar adds, "A well-lubricated chain improves the bike's longevity and enhances overall safety by ensuring smoother rides."

Check tyres and brakes

Wet roads reduce traction and increase the risk of skidding, so keeping your bike's tyres in top condition is crucial. Gaurav Suresh, an automotive expert, advises, "Make sure your tyre treads are deep enough to grip the road properly. Bald or worn-out tyres are a recipe for disaster in the rain." Bikers should also check tyre pressure regularly, as overinflated or underinflated tyres can compromise grip on wet surfaces. Similarly, effective braking is key to staying safe on wet roads.

Use bike cover or park in sheltered area

Excessive exposure to rain can damage the bike's paint and electrical components. Anil Kumar says, "A good bike cover can prevent rusting and ensure that water doesn't seep into critical areas like the fuel tank, electricals, or seat."

Keep an eye on electricals

Water and electricity are a dangerous mix, and prolonged exposure to moisture can lead to electrical issues. To prevent this, ensure that your bike's electrical components, such as the battery and wiring, are properly insulated. Gaurav Suresh explains, "If water gets into the electrical components, it can cause short circuits or other malfunctions. It's important to check the wiring for any exposed sections and get them insulated if necessary."

Maintain visibility

Reduced visibility is a significant hazard for both bikers and other road users during heavy rains. "Always use your headlights, even during the day, to make yourself more visible to other drivers. Keep your helmet visor clean to improve your visibility," advises Anil Kumar. Helmets with anti-fog visors or anti-fog sprays can help prevent fogging and ensure clear vision during the rains.

Watch your speed

Monsoon roads can be unpredictable with potholes, oil slicks, and sudden puddles, so cautious riding is a must. "Slow down during rains, it's harder to stop quickly on wet roads, so maintaining a slower speed gives you more control. Avoid sudden turns or sharp braking, as this can cause the bike to skid," advises Gaurav.

Prevent water ingress

Bikers should ensure that all seals, including the air filter and exhaust pipe, are intact and functional. "If water gets into the engine or exhaust, it can cause severe damage. It's important to inspect these parts regularly and avoid riding through deep water," says Anil.

Equip your bike with rain gear

Investing in accessories like mudguards and leg guards can help protect the bike from excessive water splashes and shield critical components from damage. Gaurav suggests, "Mudguards are essential in the rain to prevent water from splashing onto the engine or your body. Leg guards can provide some protection from the rain and debris on the road. Taking care of your bike during the rainy season in Bengaluru requires a combination of regular maintenance, cautious riding, and proper protection against the elements."

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Pothole patrol: Traffic cops take action in city

As heavy rains create dangerous potholes, Bengaluru officers step in to fill them; citizens call for long-term solutions from BBMP

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The continuous rains in the city over the past few days have not only resulted in waterlogging but also left roads marked by uneven surfaces and potholes, creating dangerous driving conditions and causing traffic to slow down. The combination of rainfall and poor road maintenance has led to a familiar situation in the city, where commuting has become a frustrating experience for motorists. However, amidst the turmoil, Bengaluru traffic police have taken matters into their own hands. They have implemented a much-needed solution to keep traffic moving and ensure the safety of motorists. Officers are personally filling potholes, a proactive approach that has received widespread praise and attention across the city.

Traffic police engaged in pothole repairs

Traffic police officers were observed on various major stretches throughout the city, including busy roads, shovelling gravel and cement into potholes to address the damage from the heavy rain. This spontaneous road repair effort, although not a permanent fix, has offered relief to commuters facing traffic congestion and hazardous driving conditions.

HAL Airport traffic police staff and officers filled a pothole at the Doddanekundi junction caused by heavy rains in the city on Thursday. A similar situation was also observed in rural Bengaluru, where rain created uneven surfaces at the busy Kunigal Circle in Nelamangala, which were subsequently repaired. "The potholes cause vehicles to slow down, resulting in traffic congestion. They can also lead to accidents, so we decided to act swiftly," said a traffic police officer involved in the effort, noting that many vehicles were on the road since it was the weekend.

Citizens share their concerns on social media

This isn't the first time the city's traffic police have taken on the responsibility of filling potholes. With a significant number of roads neglected during the rainy season, officers have consistently intervened to ensure road safety and prevent accidents, earning appreciation from citizens. However, residents have expressed their concerns on social media, urging civic authorities to implement more sustainable, long-term solutions. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been called upon to accelerate its road repair efforts, especially with the monsoon season still ongoing.

However, while the police's initiative has been appreciated, the recurring problem of poorly maintained roads during the rainy season has raised questions about the city's infrastructure planning and the authorities responsible for road upkeep. Several areas, such as Outer Ring Road, Bannerghatta Road, and Whitefield, have seen severe traffic jams, with motorists reporting delays due to waterlogged roads and potholes.

Motorist navigating through pothole-filled road

NGT notices issued over Bengaluru Lake STP failures

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The National Green Tribunal (NGT) sent notices to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), and Karnataka Wetland Authority, among other government agencies, regarding the poor state of sewage treatment plants (STP) associated with some of the Bengaluru's lakes.

The principal bench of the tribunal took up a suo motu case based on an article published in Bangalore Mirror on September 16. The news item highlighted the findings of a report that stated that the water quality of these lakes is below acceptable standards despite dedicated STPs. NGT has noted that the news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Notices have also been sent to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the regional officer of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF), and the District Magistrate of Bengaluru.

BangaloreMirror
What use of STP? 12 lakes on brink
Report reveals sewage treatment plants at 15 lakes not working effectively as water quality is only going from worse to worst
BM report on sept 16 highlights the ineffectiveness of STP, noting that the water quality of 15 lakes is not improving

The article underlined that STPs at 15 lakes across the city are not effective in improving the water quality, according to the report by ActionAid Association, a city-based NGO. While the water quality report of the STPs has all parameters conforming to the standards given by KSPCB, most of the associated lakes recorded the worst water quality possible (Class E) on more than one occasion during the study period of 31 months.

The lakes studied included Bhattarahalli, Munnekolalu, Challakere, Herohalli, Lingadheeranahalli, Andrahalli, Kalena Agrahara, Iblur, Kudlu Chikkakere, Uttarahalli, Dorekere, Byrasandra, Deepanjali, Dasarahalli, and Kammagondanahalli lakes.

Among the 12 lakes that frequently showed poor water quality, nine were classified as Class E on more than four occasions. Notably, Uttarahalli recorded the worst water quality 16 times, according to KSPCB's monthly water quality report, highlighting the ineffectiveness of the treatment plants.

"The news item highlights that many lakes are on the brink of ecological collapse. High levels of pollution are evident, with various lakes showing water quality far below acceptable standards. Furthermore, it is alleged that these STPs are not maintaining the desired water quality with incomplete water quality reports and inconsistencies in the parameters tested. For instance, crucial parameters like faecal coliform, ammoniacal nitrogen, and total nitrogen were missing in several reports. High levels reflected in the reports can lead to eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, and decreased dissolved oxygen, which are detrimental to aquatic life," noted the Green Court in its order. City-based experts say BBMP must take action on issues highlighted in the report. "A lot of money is spent in maintaining these STPs. Despite that, we documented that water quality was not up to the mark leading to episodes of fish kills in many of these lakes. BBMP should study the report and take swift action," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a city-based lake conservationist. The principal bench of NGT transferred the matter to the southern zonal bench.

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Old signage

MG Road

A signboard installed in April 2024 on MG Road remains in place, despite being outdated and no longer relevant.

Poor roads

Margondanahalli

Despite the presence of many shops in Margondanahalli, the area has long experienced inadequate roads and footpaths, further exacerbated by illegal land use.

Footpath repairs

Majestic

The footpaths in the Majestic area are in bad shape and need immediate repair.

From gear to route: Prepare for safe long-distance ride

Long motorcycle rides offer freedom and adventure, but they require preparation and safety precautions for a smooth and safe journey. Whether you're experienced or a beginner, taking the right steps before hitting the road is crucial.

Suresh Peters, an avid bike rider said, "Safety begins with what you wear, and investing in high-quality gear can make all the difference in case of an accident. The most important piece of gear is a helmet, and it's essential to choose a full-face helmet that meets safety standards. Helmets significantly reduce the risk of head injuries in the event of a crash. A protective riding jacket and pants are crucial. These should be made of abrasion-resistant materials like leather or synthetic textiles and should have armour reinforcement at the elbows, shoulders, knees, and back. Gloves are another important piece of gear, protecting your hands from wind, debris, and injury in the event of a fall. Opt for padded gloves that offer a good grip. Riding boots that cover your ankles and offer solid protection are also vital, as they prevent injuries to your feet and ankles. Ensure you have proper eye protection in the form of a helmet visor or riding goggles to shield your eyes from dust, insects, and glare while riding."

Experts recommend a thorough pre-ride inspection to avoid mechanical issues on long motorcycle rides. Check tyre inflation and tread depth, as under-inflated or worn tyres are hazardous. Ensure both front and rear brakes are in good condition, with adequate fluid levels and brake pads. Verify that lights and signals work, especially for night or low-visibility rides. Also, check engine oil and coolant levels to prevent overheating. Finally, inspect and lubricate the chain and sprocket, ensuring proper tension to avoid breakdowns.

"Another key aspect of safe long-distance motorcycling is planning your route and stops. Taking a long motorcycle trip without a well-thought-out plan can lead to unexpected challenges. Avoid choosing unfamiliar or poorly maintained roads that could present hazards such as gravel, potholes, or slippery conditions. A well-planned route will help you avoid unnecessary risks. Check the weather forecast for your route, as weather conditions can vary significantly over long distances. Riding in heavy rain, snow, or extreme heat can be dangerous and uncomfortable, so it's essential to be prepared. Along with the route, plan regular fuel stops based on your motorcycle's fuel range," Gaurav Kumar, a biker rider said.

"Maintaining your stamina is another crucial factor for long rides. Motorcycle riding requires physical endurance, so it's important to take regular breaks to rest and stretch. Prolonged riding can lead to fatigue, which affects your concentration and reaction time. Plan to take breaks every 100-150 kilometres to rest, hydrate, and relax your muscles. Long rides often involve travelling on highways or unfamiliar roads, where you may encounter aggressive drivers, large trucks, or sudden changes in traffic patterns. Always assume that other drivers may not see you and ride defensively by keeping a safe distance from other vehicles, staying out of blind spots, and using your indicators well in advance when changing lanes or turning. Being aware of your surroundings and anticipating potential hazards is key to staying safe on the road," said Dr K Krishnamurthy, a bike rider by passion and a general physician by profession.

Lastly, ensure that you are physically and mentally prepared for the ride. Long-distance motorcycling can be mentally and physically taxing, so it's important to start your journey well-rested and focused. Fatigue and stress can affect your reaction time and decision-making, increasing the risk of accidents. Make sure you get a good night's sleep before your ride, and if you start feeling fatigued during the journey, take a break to recharge. If possible, share the ride with another experienced motorcyclist who can take over if you become too tired to continue safely. Long motorcycle rides can be an incredible experience, but they require careful preparation and safety precautions to ensure a successful and enjoyable journey. From wearing the right protective gear to inspecting your bike and planning your route, taking the time to prepare will help you avoid potential risks and ensure a smooth, memorable ride. Riding defensively, staying hydrated will keep you safe on the road," added Peters.

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Real estate growth boom on Kanakapura Road

Kanakapura Road in Bengaluru is witnessing a real estate boom, driven by infrastructural developments, seamless connectivity, and the availability of vast tracts of land.

With the extension of the Namma Metro's Green Line, connectivity between Kanakapura Road and central Bengaluru has become significantly easier.

Shrinivas Rao, a prominent real estate developer, says, "Kanakapura Road has seen massive changes in recent years. The demand for housing is high because people now realize they can live in a quieter, greener environment without sacrificing accessibility."

The area's greenery, water bodies, and proximity to tourist destinations like the Art of Living Ashram and the Thottikallu Falls make it attractive for buyers seeking tranquility and a high quality of life. Sunil Kumar, a homebuyer, shared his experience: "I've lived in the city centre for years, but I wanted to move to a quieter place. Kanakapura Road offered exactly what I was looking for—a peaceful environment with good connectivity to my workplace."

BBMP makeover project on Kanakapura road from Banakshankri

Affordability is another factor that has contributed to the growing demand for real estate along Kanakapura Road. Property prices here are still relatively lower compared to other established areas in Bengaluru, making it an attractive option for first-time homebuyers and investors alike. Ashok Verma, an investor, highlights the area's potential: "Kanakapura Road offers excellent investment potential because of its growing demand and the number of infrastructure projects in the pipeline."

Reputed schools, hospitals, shopping centres, and entertainment options have started to crop up, making Kanakapura Road a self-sustaining locality. "Kanakapura Road has grown beyond just being a residential area.

The area has become a mini-city in itself, providing everything one might need," notes Praveen Reddy, a real estate consultant. **–Prakash**

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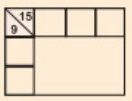
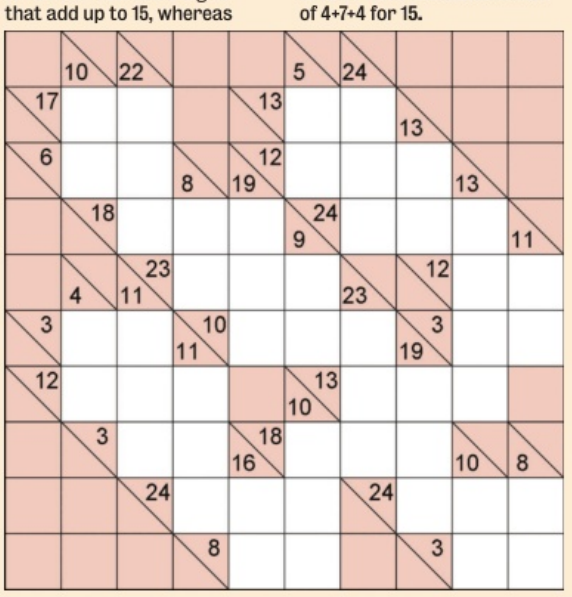
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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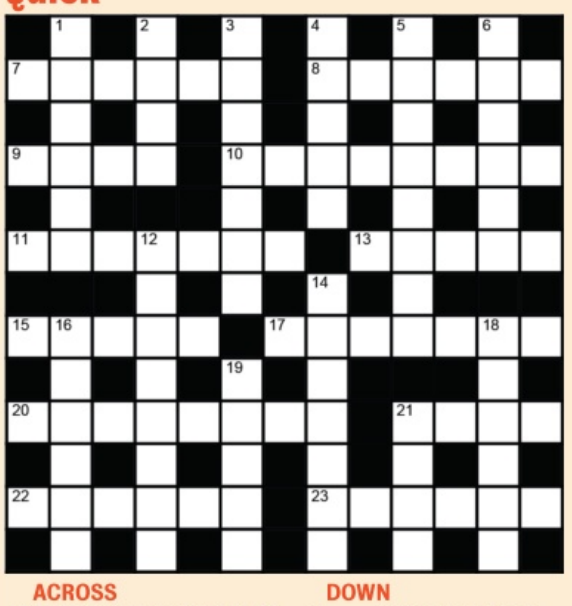


ACROSS

7 Place for mooring yachts (6)
8 Dislike intensely (6)
9 Sully or smear (4)
10 Disappears (8)
11 Encourage (7)
13 Ancient Mexican (5)
15 Knot in wood (5)
17 Decorations (7)
20 Repairman (8)
21 Small rodents (4)
22 Horse's fastest pace (6)
23 Person used by borrower (6)

DOWN

1 ___ with : agree with? (4,2)
2 Uprising (4)
3 Vary cue anagram for a South Indian river (7)
4 Throw or hurl (5)
5 Collapses and sinks (8)
6 Purloin (6)
12 Ship's window (8)
14 Calls off (7)
16 Olympic gold medallist ___ Chopra (6)
18 ___ up: Imprisoned (6)
19 Photographs (5)
21 Jazz pianist Thelonious ___ (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS D

YZFXHUFXY UJ AUCX IZW QZJ'H KAOKIY CXXA AUBX K OUJJXM, EWH HRKH QZXYJ'H FXKJ IZW'MX JZH K OUJJXM.

Linemaro

Are you accepting applications for your fan club?

Mindchow

If you were happy before you knew someone, you can be happy after they are gone

Joke of the day

I will never understand why they cook on TV. I can't smell it. Can't eat it. Can't taste it. The end of the show they hold it up to the camera, "Well, here it is. You can't have any. Thanks for watching. Goodbye."

Loop

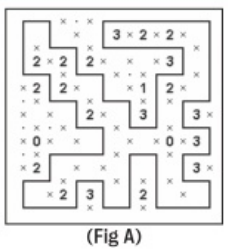
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

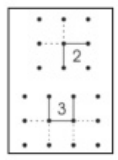
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

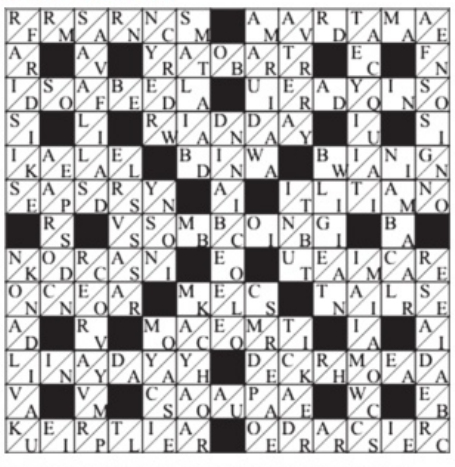


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

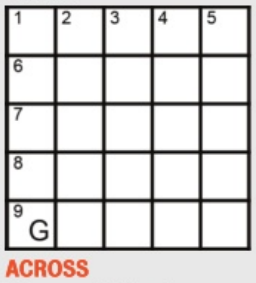
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

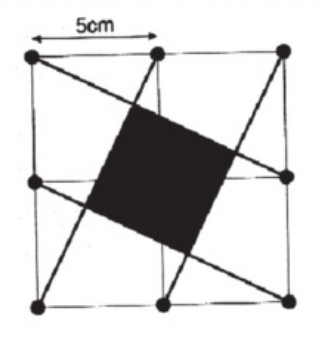
1 Samoa; 6 Worst; 7 Aside; 8 Crane; 9 Slags

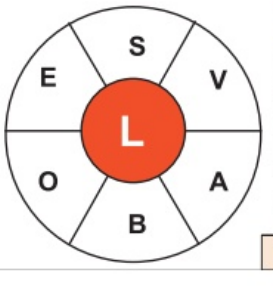
DOWN

1 No wig; 2 Lo Mad; 3 A race; 4 Tsars; 5 SS Sea

Mensapuzzle

What is the area of the shaded square ?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

20 Average; 22 Good; 24 Outstanding

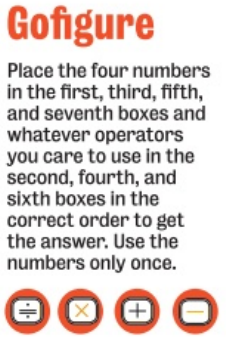
SudokuChallenge

9			7			4	5	
	7		2					8
	8				9		2	
				7			3	
2		1	6		5	7		9
	3			1				
	1		5				9	
3					6		4	
	6	9			3			1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 13

3 4 6 8

Medium = 14

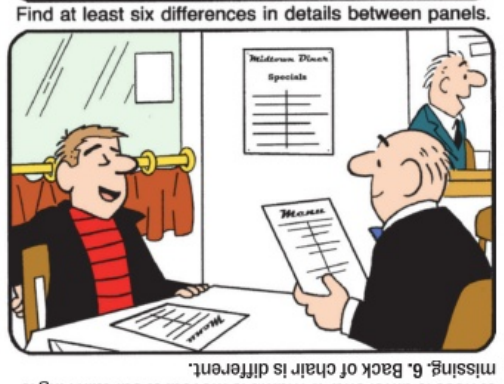
2 2 7 7

Hard = 17

3 4 8 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



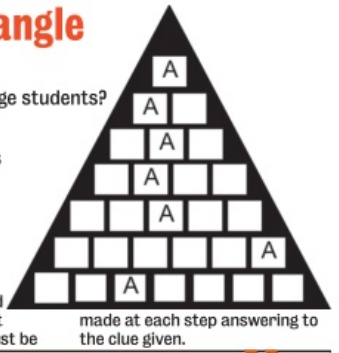
Differences: 1. Menu is longer. 2. Ear is smaller. 3. Nose is different. 4. Thumb is moved. 5. Curtain ring is missing. 6. Back of chair is different.

Riddler

Like a forking spear that giant casts, From cloud down to the ground Flaming like the sun it seems Mighty is its sound. And though its life is short, but grand. A single touch can burn the land, What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Blood gr.
2 Similar to
3 History or language students?
4 Obstructs
5 Stands
6 Where Belgrade is
7 Albatross or auk

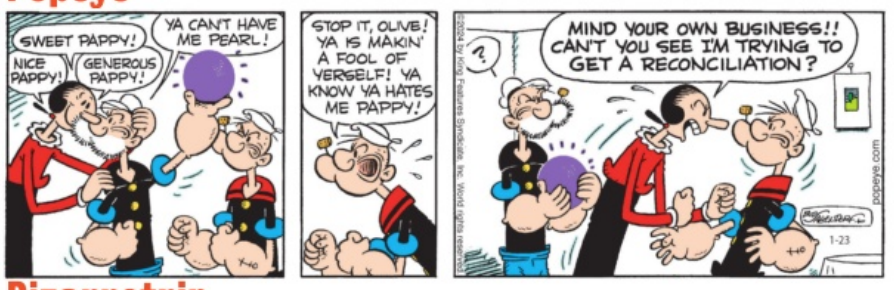


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

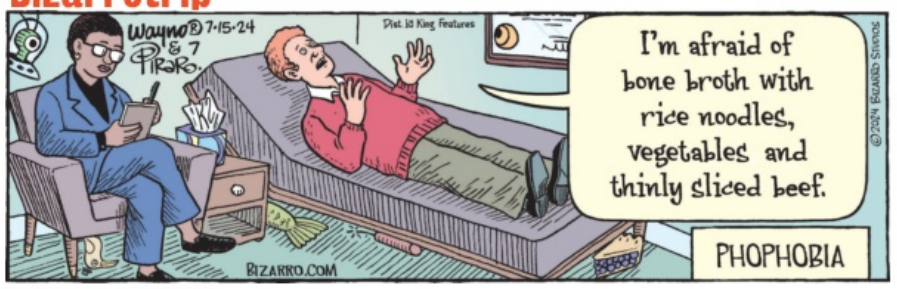
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


SWEET PAPPY!
NICE PAPPY!
GENEROUS PAPPY!
YA CAN'T HAVE ME PEARL!
STOP IT, OLIVE! YA IS MAKIN' A FOOL OF YERSELF! YA KNOW YA HATES ME PAPPY!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TRYING TO GET A RECONCILIATION?
?!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip


Wayno 7-15-24
Dist. by King Features
I'm afraid of bone broth with rice noodles, vegetables and thinly sliced beef.
PHOPHOBIA
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

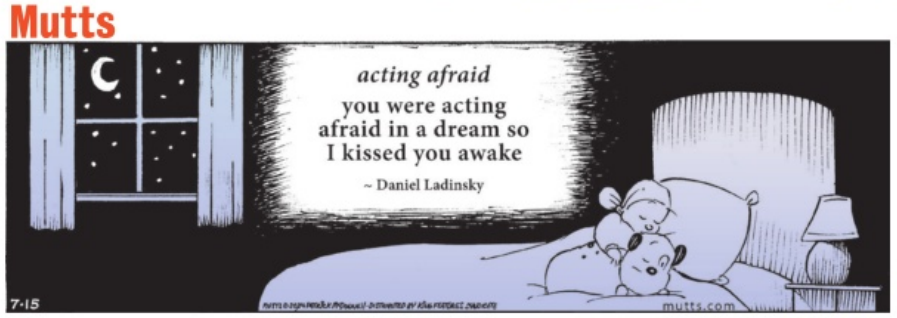
Hart of the city

HOW'S COOKING GOING?
TERRIBLY! I'VE MESSED UP EVERY RECIPE WE'VE DONE SO FAR!
THE TEACHER SAYS I NEED TO "FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS MORE CLOSELY."
MAKES SENSE. THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE FOR IMPROV!
I JUST WANNA BE GOOD AT COOKING NOW!
WHAT'S THE RUSH?
"MASTERCHEF JUNIOR" ONLY TAKES APPLICANTS UP TO AGE 13, AND I'M ALREADY 12! MY LIFE IS PASSING ME BY!

Crankshaft

SUMMER ALWAYS REMINDS ME OF WHEN LUCY AND EUGENE WOULD GO CANOEING AT SUMMIT BEACH...
SEE 'ROSES IN DECEMBER' @ TOMBATIUK.COM
SUMMIT BEACH PARK
7-15 BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Your creativity is high today, inspiring you to renovate your home or office, which could enhance your social status. You may experience harmony in domestic life. Any disputes with friends, coworkers, or partners are likely to settle down now. You may also receive good news regarding legal matters.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You will feel content today as you successfully balance your earnings and expenditures, boosting your finances. Your network will help implement your plans, and your siblings and subordinates will offer more support. You may also plan a visit to elders or a religious place.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull due to sleeplessness; it could scatter your focus and reduce your work efficiency. Visiting a religious place may bring some peace. By evening, blessings from elders may help you identify your mistakes and set things right for the following day. You are advised to keep an eye on your parents' health.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, in the morning, you may feel sluggish, affecting your work, but by afternoon, with blessings from elders, you'll regain your energy. You are advised to pay close attention to your children's health. Stomach issues may also arise. You'll likely come out on top in disputes with opponents. Investors should tread carefully when making decisions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you'll feel happy at work. You may make important decisions by day's end, which will be beneficial in the future. You may plan a short trip, and your subordinates will be cooperative. You may also expect good news about your sibling's success and potentially favourable outcomes in legal matters. Students will be more focused now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, your communication skills will enhance your professional performance. Politeness will help speed up projects. Lovebirds may have meaningful exchanges; this will lay the foundation for their relationship to grow stronger.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
The moon blesses you today; it may be bringing benefits from new partnerships. Your energy will be high, and your hard work and enthusiasm will yield financial gains. Self-respect will shield you from negativity in your surroundings.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may reconnect with old friends or attend a social gathering. You'll feel excited and could come up with new business innovations. Unexpected material gains are also likely. Children may bring good news regarding their studies. Lovebirds will enjoy quality time together.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, small investments could bring big profits, and your work efficiency will increase. Success will come with minimal effort. You may also hear good news in legal matters. You will have full control over your rivals and opponents.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon; you may achieve success from small efforts, and past investments may yield good profits. You may receive rewards for hard work on current projects, and your prestige will rise. New innovations in your business are likely. Disputes with your spouse will be resolved now.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, situations are under control; you will feel better. Your network will assist you at work, and you may plan overseas travel. Domestic harmony and your love life will improve. Creativity will flow, and you may buy some artefacts for your family. You might also plan a movie outing with friends or family.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Overworking may make you feel tired, lazy, and careless today, so it's important to remain patient. You are advised to postpone any adventure tours, as past investments may turn unproductive. Students need to work hard. Health issues like backache, nerve, liver, or skin problems may arise.

KIDZONE

Swathi J, Bengaluru

Ananya Vastare, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
able, ABSOLVE, aloe, also, bale, bole, lave, lobe, lose, love, oval, salvo, seal, slab, sable, sale, salve, slave, slob, sloe, solve, vale, veal, vole

QUOTE UNCODE
Sometimes in life you don't always feel like a winner, but that doesn't mean you're not a winner.

FAST FIVE

G	L	A	S	S
N	A	C	R	E
I	D	E	A	S
W	O	R	T	S
O	M	A	S	A

SOLVE IN 1M
-1+14×14
-14+196
-15+196
+181

STRIKE OUT

F	R	A	N	C	S	M	A	D	A	M	E			
R	V	R	A	B	A	T	C	N						
I	S	A	B	E	L	I	R	A	Q	I	S			
S	I	W	A	D	D	Y	U	I						
K	A	L	E	D	I	A	W	I	N	G				
S	A	S	S	Y	A	T	I	T	A	N				
R	S	O	B	B	I	N	G	B						
K	O	R	A	N	O	T	A	M	A	R				
O	N	E	R	M	L	C	N	I	L	E				
D	V	M	A	O	R	I	A							
I	N	A	D	A	Y	E	C	H	O	E	D			
A	M	C	O	U	P	E	W	E						
K	E	P	L	E	R	E	R	A	S	E	R			

QUICK

J		E		S		S	K	D						
G	A	L	L	O	P		L	E	N	D	E	R		
	R		O		A		E		O		K			
M	E	C	H	A	N	I	C		M	I	C	E		
	E		T		S		N				O			
G	N	A	R	L		T	A	S	S	E	L	S		
	O		Y		C		E							
I	N	S	P	I	R	E		A	Z	T	E	C		
	I			E		G		I		V				
B	L	O	T		V	A	N	I	S	H	E	S		
	L		O		U		I		P		I			
M	A	R	I	N	A		L	O	A	T	H	E		
	F		R		C		F		C		T			

MENSA PUZZLE
20 Square centimeters. Since the figure can be rearranged into five squares, and since there were four squares to start with each new square must be 0.8 of an old square. we use 0.8 x 25 = 20

RIDDLER Lightning

SUDOKU

9	2	6	7	8	1	4	5	3
5	7	3	2	6	4	9	1	8
1	8	4	3	5	9	6	2	7
6	9	8	4	2	7	1	3	5
2	4	1	6	3	5	7	8	9
7	3	5	9	1	8	2	6	4
8	1	2	5	4	7	3	9	6
3	5	7	1	9	6	8	4	2
4	6	9	8	2	3	5	7	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, As, BAs, Bars, Barbs, Bearrs, Serbia, Seabird.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 – 4 + 6 + 8 = 13
Medium
7 + 2 + 7 – 2 = 14
Hard
3 x 4 – 3 + 8 = 17

LOOP

KAKURO

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Mix of devotion and action

Lyricist Kinnal Raj, known for writing his song in KGF, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie that is aimed at family as well as mass audiences. The movie has elements of action, sentiments, devotion and a message to society on the importance of girl child.

The movie begins with Mahabala, a priest, getting Goddess Maramma's (Yashaswini Subbegowda) blessings. Goddess Maramma advises him not to misuse her blessings. However, Mahabala fails to follow Goddess Maramma's advice and gets punished. Goddess Maramma leaves the village and decides to stay at Yerappanahalli.

SIMHAROOPINI
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Kinnal Raj
- **ACTORS** Sagar BR, Yash Shetty, Ankita Gowda, Suman, Harish Rai, Dinesh Mangaluru, Sai Deena
- **Duration** 125 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

At this juncture, the director introduces Surya (Sagar BR), Channa's son. Surya falls in love with Sindhu (Ankita Gowda) and invites her father Narasimha's (Dinesh Mangaluru) wrath. What happens to Yerappanahalli and how good triumphs over evil is what Simharoopini is all about.

The movie offers an opportunity to know more about Goddess Maramma who is an incarnation of Sri Parvati Devi. It also throws some light on petty politics, existing traditions and customs at villages. The director did a good job in selecting Harish Rai, known for playing villainous roles, to play an honest and devout priest. Ninasam Ashwath, who is also known for playing the villain, has played the role of a priest who treats his daughters with respect and affection. Yash Shetty is convincing as a malevolent cobbler who pretends to be a pious person with an evil eye on a priest's daughter. Veteran actor Suman has nothing to do except appearing in a few scenes. He plays a landlord who harasses hapless and gullible villagers. Though Sagar BR is good in action scenes, he has to go a long way to establish himself as an actor in Sandalwood. Ankita Gowda, an anchor by profession, is the female lead. Though she looks good, her performance is not up to the mark in most of the scenes.

Songs by Kinnal Raj and music scored by Akash Parva are good.

It is worth a watch for family audiences, especially those who want to know about Goddess Maramma.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Finding strength

Malaika Arora has gone through a low phase personally this year. Earlier, rumours of her breakup with Arjun Kapoor started doing the rounds. Though neither of them confirmed the same, the duo stopped being seen together, with Malaika even skipping Arjun's birthday bash. Post that, Malaika suddenly lost her father Anil Mehta last month, leaving her entire family shocked. Now, the actress is slowly moving on, and was recently featured on the cover of a magazine.

While talking to Global Spa magazine, Malaika spoke about strength, and how to remain strong in the face of adversity. She said, "You have to dig deep within to find strength. While my family, friends, and work are significant sources of peace and resilience, the people around me also play a crucial role in helping me stay grounded and strong. Their support has an immense influence on my ability to keep it all together."

Talking about her girlfriends (Kareena Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor and sister Amrita Arora), Malaika said, "Honestly, I would be nothing without my girlfriends. They look out for me, support me, encourage me, and keep me grounded. They are everything," she said.

In the same interview, the 50-year-old shared details about her personal life. As a stunning model, actress, dancer, and reality show judge, Malaika has been active in showbiz. She said, "I live with no regrets and feel fortunate that things have unfolded the way they have." She confessed that every choice she has made has shaped her life both personally and professionally.

—ETimes

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